

Aboriginal news from across Turtle Island and beyond
December 3-7, 2012

FRONT PAGE

Ottawa taken to court over release of residential-schools documents

[The Globe and Mail](#)

Dec. 03 2012, 4:00 AM EST

Gloria Galloway



Fort Providence residential school, children and staff. (Sacred Heart Parish/NWT Archives)

The commission examining the treatment of aboriginal children at Canada's residential schools is taking the federal government to court for refusing to

release millions of documents that were supposed to form a permanent and public record of the abuses committed.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) – established in 2008 as part of the settlement between former students, the Canadian government, the churches that ran the schools, and others – has asked an Ontario Superior Court judge to decide whether Canada is obligated to hand over the material. Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized in 2008 for the forced assimilation of more than 150,000 first nations, Inuit and Métis children at the schools. However, Ottawa's failure to produce the documents threatens to undermine the aboriginal community's faith in the government, says the Assembly of First Nations.

The commission has been provided with almost a million documents over the past 12 months, all of them held by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. But it

contends that millions, and possibly tens of millions, are being withheld. In addition to what may still be with Aboriginal Affairs, some are in the possession of other departments, some are stored within Library and Archives Canada, and some are church records obtained by the government.

For instance, the commission has received no documents from the RCMP. Parents complained to police at the time their children were in the residential school system that their children were being abused or had even disappeared. Survivors believe there may be documents in the possession of the national force that would help them determine what happened to those complaints.

The government cannot get away with releasing a million documents when millions more remain undisclosed, said Julian Falconer, the commission's lawyer. "Put simply, a half loaf in the form of one million documents isn't going to do it," he said. "What is at stake here is control over history."

The commission said in an interim report last February that it had hit a wall in its attempts to pry the documents out of Ottawa's hands. In an application for legal intervention, it says the stonewalling continues and the government has provided only a subset of an existing database of known material. "The commission is taking this step very reluctantly and with a sense that it has been left with no alternative," Justice Murray Sinclair, the commission's chairman, said in a statement.

The commission's application will be heard by Justice Stephen Goudge on Dec. 20 and 21 in Toronto. Judge Goudge is being asked to decide whether the commission's term should be extended as a result of the delay in the production of the documents.

Jason MacDonald, a spokesman for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, said the government remains committed to bringing closure to the legacy of residential schools and it will continue to honour the settlement. "We are working with 22 other government departments and with the TRC to ensure all relevant Indian Residential Schools related documents are made available to the TRC," Mr. MacDonald said in an e-mail. "Canada aims to disclose all of its remaining documents relevant to the TRC's mandate by June 30, 2013."

But the commission argues that Ottawa has "erected a myriad of obstacles" to avoid fulfilling its obligations.

According to court documents filed by the commission, the government has taken issue with the commission's interpretation of "relevant," has not agreed to compile all of the documents housed in the Library and Archives in a organized manner, has withheld documents obtained from the churches, and has failed to produce documents produced by other departments.

The commission argues that the government should not be allowed to rely on privacy considerations or cabinet confidence to keep the documents from being released. And it wants the government to bear what could end up being the very

large cost of copying reams of original material that has been gathered over the decades.

Ken Rubin, an expert in accessing government documents who has been working on this issue for a number of weeks, said the government is still arguing over what is and is not a relevant record. "Get on with it fellows," said Mr. Rubin, "this is not a matter that you are going to play petty politics with. This is national reconciliation and history that's at stake."

First Nations' day-school pupils seek compensation: Class-action lawsuit says pupils suffered abuse, loss of their language and culture at church-run schools

[Vancouver Sun](#)

December 2, 2012

Gordon Hoekstra and Lori Culbert



Scales of justice.

Photograph by: Vancouver Sun files

Former First Nations students who attended day schools in B.C. have signed on to a class-action suit to seek compensation similar to that agreed to by Canada for students at residential schools.

Unlike residential schools such as Lejac, near Fraser Lake in northern B.C. or at Port Alberni

on Vancouver Island — where students stayed in dormitories and spent 10 months a year away from home — day-school students were able to go home after school hours to their families in nearby communities.

Although day-school students say they had similar experiences of abuse, as well as loss of their language and culture, they were left out of a 2006 settlement agreement that compensated residential school students.

More than \$3 billion has already been paid to residential school students under the agreement, which was followed by a historic apology by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2008.

The day schools in B.C. include Catholic-run elementary schools such as Immaculata in Burns Lake, which came into focus recently when the Georgia Straight reported eight former native students allege former Vancouver Olympics CEO John Furlong emotionally and physically abused them while he was a young gym teacher in 1969 and 1970.

Furlong has filed a lawsuit against the newspaper and reporter who wrote the story, and has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Winnipeg lawyer Joan Jack, who started the day-school, class-action suit in 2009 seeking \$15 billion in damages, said thousands of First Nation day students across Canada have signed up for the suit, including a "large" number from northern B.C.

She wouldn't provide specifics on the schools, but her website says students from 85 B.C. schools have joined the suit.

The suit has not been certified by the Federal Court, a rigorous process that can take years. The federal government has not responded to it.

"Survivors of day schools tell me they were beaten for speaking their language. They were humiliated. Some of them tell me they were sexually abused, physically abused," said Jack, who recently joined forces with Winnipeg lawyer Louay Alghoul on the suit.

"The Canadian public has to realize that killing the Indian in the child didn't just happen at residential school," said Jack.

Several former Immaculata students interviewed by The Vancouver Sun indicated an interest in receiving compensation for their treatment in the Catholic-run day school. Immaculata was one of a dozen schools built by Bishop Fergus O'Grady of the Prince George Diocese in the late 1950s. O'Grady, who is now dead, used a volunteer group, called Frontier Apostles, to build, support and teach in the schools.

Pius Charlie, a member of Burns Lake Indian Band (Ts'il Kaz Koh) who attended Immaculata in the 1960s and 1970s, says he would like to see compensation for day students.

Charlie said students were forbidden from speaking their native Carrier language, and were beaten if they did.

"They brushed our teeth with salt water, fed us dog biscuits. Oh my god, it's pretty gruesome," he said.

Under the 2006 settlement agreement, students who attended residential schools were eligible for common experience payments, which provided \$10,000 for the first year spent living in a residential school and \$3,000 for each subsequent year. As of the end of September, about \$1.6 billion had been paid out.

An independent adjudication process also allowed former students to apply for additional compensation for serious physical, sexual or other abuse leading to psychological damage. Another \$1.7 billion has been paid out through that process by the end of September.

The settlement also provided \$205 million in programs for former students and their families for healing, truth, reconciliation and commemoration of abuses suffered at residential schools.

In order to take part in the settlement, former First Nation residential school students have to give up their right to sue in court.

The Assembly of First Nations launched a class-action suit over the harm experienced by First Nation students in residential schools run by religious groups, including Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and United, in 2005.

Another class-action suit was also launched recently in B.C. It seeks compensation for students at residential schools who lived at home because the residential schools were in their communities.

The Tk'emlups te Secwepemc in the B.C. Interior and the Sechelt Indian Band filed their statement of claim in August and hope it will grow to include other First Nations in Canada.

The new suit has seen interest from other First Nations in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, says Jo-Anne Gottfriedson, a coordinator for the suit.

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HIV on the rise among aboriginal communities

[Global News](#)

December 01, 2012 7:13 PM

Brittany Greenslade



In 2011; 80 people were diagnosed with HIV in Manitoba; over half of those diagnosed were aboriginal. Photo Credit: Mark Weiss/Getty Images, Global News
Art Zoccole has been living with HIV for the past 8 years.

"It's a daily struggle. You have some good days and then you have some bad days," said Zaccole, an Aboriginal AIDS activist trying to lower the rate of HIV infections among First Nations.

"1 aboriginal person, per day becomes infected with HIV," he said.

This year's theme for Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week is 'Getting To Zero. Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths.'

It's all about getting to zero that is bringing together the First Nations community in Manitoba.

In 2011, 80 people were diagnosed with HIV in Manitoba; over half of those diagnosed were aboriginal.

"A lot of people don't know if they are HIV positive or not," said Zaccole.

The Minister of Healthy Living, Jim Rondeau, said point-of-care test, where patients are able to learn on the spot if they are infected, are critical.

Right now, tests are only available at Health Science Centre or Nine Circles in Winnipeg.

"We're working on expanding it to Thompson and other sites it's important because people know early whether they are infected," said Rondeau.

Harm-reduction kits consisting of condoms and clean needles are handed out to those considered at risk; that includes drug-users and people who practice unsafe sex.

At a cost of just 59 cents per kit, the province said it's a no brainer.

"A case of HIV costs \$15,000 to \$25,000 per year," said Rondeau. "A case of aids costs \$100,000 to \$200,000 a year. To me, it makes more sense to do harm reduction financially and on human terms and spend the 59 cents rather than the \$200,000 per case."

A price that with more testing, the province hopes need to be paid at all.

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Yukon First Nations learn new language teaching approach: Language Nest program touts early immersion for preschoolers

[CBC News](#)

Dec 1, 2012 4:34 PM CST

Aboriginal language teachers in the Yukon will soon have a new tool to teach kids First Nation languages.

The Council of Yukon First Nations held workshops in Whitehorse this week, explaining the Language Nest program. The program has been successful in reviving languages in places like New Zealand and Australia, along with other parts of Canada.



Bessie Cooley, a Tlingit language instructor in Teslin, plans on retiring in a few years. The number of fluent speakers of Yukon's First Nations languages is dwindling, but some hope an early childhood immersion program may change that. (Leonard Linklater/CBC)

In the program, fluent speakers become involved in early childhood education, creating immersion-style learning for children ages one to four.

Sean Smith of the Yukon First Nations Self-Government Secretariat said they hope to identify master speakers and potential apprentices who will eventually work with children from preschool and through their school years.

"Ten years, 15 years down the road, 20 years down the road, I see these graduates from these language nests as the teachers of the future of our language and our culture," he said.

There are eight First Nation languages in Yukon. But elders, who make up the majority of fluent aboriginal language speakers, are dying and taking those languages with them.

Geraldine James, director of education for the Carcross Tagish First Nation, said they're in "crisis mode."

"All of our Tagish speakers are gone now, so that's one language that's already extinct," she said. "So now we look at the Tlingit side and we were counting probably four that are fluent."

James said for too long they've been following Yukon Government mandated curriculum that's not effective.

Bessie Cooley, who grew up speaking Tlingit, has been a language instructor in Teslin for decades at the local school. She teaches in blocks of 20 minutes to an hour.

"How do I take that lifetime of learning and fit it in there?" she asked.



Cooley, 68, said she only plans to teach for another two or three years before she retires.

Erin Pauls, manager of Kwanlin Dun's Duska daycare, says the future of Yukon First Nations depends on

their ability to pass on language and culture to youth. (Leonard Linklater/CBC)

There is hope that the Language Nest program will help aboriginal languages survive.

Erin Pauls, manager of Kwanlin Dun's Duska daycare, said they have to make the early immersion program work because the future depends on it.

"I think giving these kids the gift in being able to speak their language and learn their culture will give them their identity and make them proud of who they are as First Nations people," she said.

James is also hopeful the new Language Nest approach will work.

"I'm looking at it very optimistically right now," she said. "And we'll do everything that we can, even if it doesn't look like a full immersion at first, because we're learning, too."

Aboriginal businesses recognized by province

[North Shore News](#)

December 2, 2012

Manisha Krishnan



Tech phenom Kevin Sebastian recently picked up a B.C. Aboriginal Business award for Business of the Year, one-to-two person enterprise.

Photograph by: NEWS photo , Cindy Goodman

A North Vancouverite who runs a niche one-man business was recognized by the province last weekend.

Kevin Sebastian, owner of Toolcomm Technology, took home a B.C. Aboriginal Business award for Business of the Year, one-to-two person enterprise, at a gala at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver.

Toolcomm is an electronics engineering firm that designs custom electronic hardware, firmware and software and electro-mechanical devices for industrial companies.

A member of the Gitksan Nation, Sebastian founded the company in 2006. He said it's great to be acknowledged after years of hard work.

"I'm pretty happy about it. I've got some pretty big plans for the future and I think getting the award like this will help get my company a bit of attention which will help me achieve some of my future goals," he said.

Sebastian said he is never short on work and his list of clients includes BC Hydro. He first came up with the idea for Toolcomm while he was studying business at Camosun College. He soon realized that he would also need an engineering degree.

"I basically started from scratch, upgrading to get into electronics, and worked my way through tech school," he said.

For a while, he had five employees working for him, but in the end decided he would be better off on his own.

"Having employees put me in more of a project management role and more of an administrative type role, and that's not really what I like," he explained.

"I'm really good at what I do and typically the clients want me anyways."

The award, he added, is positive for the aboriginal community.

"Within the engineering community there are not too many First Nations people. So I think getting this type of attention also has a social benefit. First Nations people might be able to realize that there is someone who has relative success in their community in a professional area."

Another North Vancouver company was given an honourable mention in the same category.

Spirit Works is 100 per cent aboriginal owned and operated and focuses on creating authentic First Nations products including bentwood boxes and jewelry as well as furniture.

The awards have taken place for the past four years, recognizing leaders in everything from trades and construction to technology and fisheries.

"The British Columbia Aboriginal Business Awards showcase the continuing positive impact aboriginal business has on British Columbia's economic development," said Premier Christy Clark in a media release.

"The young people, businesses, joint ventures and community-owned endeavours recognized today exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit of the aboriginal community."

The awards are presented by the B.C. Achievement Foundation, an independent foundation established and endowed in 2003 by the province to celebrate community services, the arts, humanities and enterprise.

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Neighbouring reserve to Attawapiskat narrowly avoids fuel, housing crisis

[Globe and Mail](#)

Dec. 02 2012, 1:37 PM EST



The Northern Ontario reserve of Kashechewan is seen in this undated handout aerial photo. Exactly a year after the Attawapiskat housing crisis shocked the country, the reserve next door has only narrowly averted a similar crisis. Kashechewan First Nation, near James Bay in northern Ontario, declared a state of emergency last week because it was running out of fuel and because 21 houses were not fit to face winter. (Handout /THE CANADIAN PRESS)

A year after the northern Ontario community of Attawapiskat jarred the country's conscience with its deplorable housing conditions, the reserve next door has only narrowly averted a similar crisis.

Kashechewan First Nation declared a state of emergency last week because it was running out of fuel and because 21 houses were not fit to face winter.

The federal government stepped in with help, just in the nick of time.

But fuel shortages are becoming more common among remote northern Ontario communities right now, said Alvin Fiddler, deputy grand chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, a regional advocacy network.

That's because the ice road used to truck in a year's supply of diesel last winter did not last as long as usual.

"Everybody is running out now. We're looking at a two-month gap" until this winter's ice road is solid enough to truck in fresh supplies, Mr. Fiddler said in an interview.

In Kashechewan, extra fuel supplies were supposed to come in by barge, but bad weather and demands from other communities meant the Cree community near James Bay didn't receive enough.

Kashechewan's chief and council were poised late last month to shut down the band office, two schools, the power generation centre, the health clinic and the fire hall because the buildings were not heated and could no longer operate safely.

"We are without fuel to operate our organizations, heat them, and we are obligated to maintain employee safety and health standards for our employees," the Cree community's chief, Derek Stephen, said in a Nov. 23 declaration of emergency obtained by The Canadian Press.

Plus, 21 homes had also become uninhabitable, he said in a second declaration.

The basements of the homes had been flooded last spring and their electric furnaces destroyed. Now, with the onset of winter, families were freezing.

"Due to lack of proper heating for homes for families that have elderly, disabled and small children, we are left with no choice but to declare a state of emergency," the chief stated.

A declaration of emergency by a First Nation triggers action by Emergency Management Ontario, which is in turn reimbursed and supported by Aboriginal Affairs in Ottawa.

According to the declarations, the Cree community had asked Ottawa for help beforehand, but to no avail.

"During a conference call with (Aboriginal Affairs) we had requested fuel to be flown into the community for our medical facility, administrative buildings and our schools — all of which were denied, " the first declaration said.

Similarly, the second statement on housing said requests for assistance were rejected. As a result, temporary fixes for the furnaces damaged in last spring's flooding broke down, leaving families without heat.

According to the band's NDP MP, Charlie Angus, it wasn't until the band declared an emergency and he exchanged words with Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan that federal help kicked in.

But a spokesman for Mr. Duncan said Aboriginal Affairs had arranged for emergency fuel delivery a week before the declaration, and allowed for extra funding for home building supplies the day after the declaration.

The department freed up funding to cover the cost of flying in fuel and supplying the community with materials to get the furnaces up and running again, said spokesman Jan O'Driscoll.

"Given the urgent nature of the situation, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) has released funds to cover the incremental cost of fuel delivery by air to address health and safety needs of the community and has released a \$700,000 emergency cheque towards building supplies for renovations to 21 housing units," Mr. O'Driscoll said in an e-mail.

"Departmental officials continue to work closely with the First Nation to ensure that the community has a sufficient supply of fuel."

Aboriginal Affairs has released \$24,397 so far for the fuel supply, Mr. O'Driscoll added.

Crisis averted, said the NDP's Angus, but he is upset that the community had to come so close to the brink to get Ottawa's attention.

A year after Minister Duncan's reputation took a beating over the Attawapiskat housing crisis and the federal government's treatment of First Nations received global scrutiny, "it's symbolic that no real lessons have been learned," Mr. Angus said in an interview.

Lack of adequate housing remains an urgent problem on reserves across the country. And isolated communities frequently confront problems linked to their dependence on diesel fuel for power — such as leaks, contamination, fuel shortages, and high prices, Mr. Angus said.

Reserves in his riding alone have declared 13 emergencies in just seven years, most of them related to poor infrastructure.

"We're always putting Band-aids on septic wounds," he said. "A year after Attawapiskat, we really need to say: what is the lesson from all of this?"

SPORTS

Pauktuutit aims to reduce sports and recreational injuries among Inuit youth



[NUNATSIAQ NEWS](#)

December 04, 2012 -
7:24 am

Kids play street hockey in front of the North Mart store in Iqaluit. Pauktuutit's "Active and Safe Inuit Children and Youth" wants to reduce the number of sports and recreational injuries among Inuit children and youth across Canada. (FILE PHOTO)

Pauktuutit, the national

Inuit women's association, hopes to cut down on the high number of sports and recreational injuries among Inuit children and youth with its new "Active and Safe Inuit Children and Youth" project.

Leona Aglukkaq, Nunavut MP and federal health minister, announced Dec. 3 that Pauktuutit's project is among three projects across Canada to reduce the number of sports and recreation-related injuries among children and youth, which will share in \$1.7 million from Ottawa.

"Many sports and recreational injuries are both predictable and preventable," Aglukkaq said in a news release.

Sports and recreation-related injuries make up a significant proportion of unintentional injuries among children and youth up to age 19. About 40 per cent of child and youth injuries treated in Canadian emergency departments are sports and recreation-related.

Pauktuutit's "Active and Safe Inuit Children and Youth" partners include the Nunatsiavut Department of Health and Social Development, Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Inuvialuit Regional Corp., National Inuit Youth Council and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

The project intends to involve Inuit youth who will help develop safety messages to be used as part of a safety awareness campaign.

Those messages will be distributed to all 53 northern Inuit communities and to southern cities with large Inuit populations to increase injury prevention knowledge, the news release said.

"Children and youth living in the North are injured far more often than those living in southern Canada," said Rebecca Kudloo, president of Pauktuutit. "This initiative will provide an opportunity for youth to share ideas on ways they can take part in daily recreational activities safely."

Unintentional injury, the leading cause of death among Canadian children, is much higher among children living in Inuit regions, [a recent Statistics Canada study found](#).

They're more than twice as likely as children living in places with few aboriginal residents to end up in hospital with unintentional injuries.

First Nations now eligible for Sask. arena grant program

The Leader Post
December 3, 2012
Vanessa Brown



Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport Kevin Doherty.

REGINA — The province has extended the scope of a recreational grant program to include indoor rinks on First Nations.

The Community Rink Affordability Grant, launched in the fall, supports operating costs and small capital upgrades at ice pads across the province.

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport Kevin Doherty

announced the program's expansion Monday.

"We heard from First Nations communities that this support will help increase activity levels in their communities and improve their overall quality of life," Doherty said in a news release. "That is exactly what this program is designed for, so we are pleased to expand it to rinks on First Nations."

The province does not typically fund programs on First Nations, which are a federal responsibility, but Doherty pointed to Saskatchewan's continued growth for enabling the province to "support activities that are important to residents."

Kimberly Jonathon, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations First Vice-Chief, welcomed the news.

"This will allow communities to make some upgrades to their rinks and that can only benefit those who use the facilities," Jonathon said in a news release. "It's nice to see that there is some creative, 'outside-the-box thinking' in meeting the needs of our communities, and I look forward to working with the province of Saskatchewan in being equally creative in other areas."

The application deadline has been extended to Dec. 21.

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OPINION

Lees: Celebrating Edmonton's first lady of philanthropy

[Edmonton Journal](#)

December 2, 2012

Nick Lees



Alberta Liberal Leader Raj Sherman, left, Sharon MacLean, Susan Green and retired chief justice of the Court of Queen's Bench Allan Wachowich gather at a lunch to honour Barbara Poole.

EDMONTON - Just call her Sacred Star Woman.

The rare honour of being given a Cree name was last week bestowed on Barbara Poole for her years of kindness and generosity.

Cree elder Betty Lafferty conferred the title at a sold-out luncheon honouring "Edmonton's First Lady of Philanthropy."

"Because we don't always see stars doesn't mean they aren't there," said Lafferty at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald. "They give us light unconditionally."

Poole, 83, whose health has been failing in recent years, beamed with pleasure on hearing her new name.

Elexis Schloss, a friend and lunch organizer, said Poole has always been a good friend of the Métis and aboriginal peoples.

Three years ago, the pair attended a sweat lodge ceremony in the river valley with Lafferty and were told at the start it was the time to back out if they were unsure of their involvement.

"I withdrew," said Schloss. "But Barbara took part in three 20-minute sessions in a teepee in complete darkness and thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

At the lunch, in support of the Lois Hole Hospital for Women at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Anne McLellan, hospital foundation chairwoman, said Poole was a longtime ally of the foundation.

"Her support of the hospital culminated with the Lois Hole Hospital for Women Campaign," McLellan said.

"Barbara's generosity knows no bounds and she shows us that passion, love and a profound sense of care for others can create incredible things. It doesn't matter who you are, or where you come from, Barbara believes everyone has value and deserves a chance to succeed."

Alberta Premier Alison Redford said in a letter read at the luncheon that Poole is "a genuine giant in heart and vision" whose philanthropy has made a difference in the lives of countless Albertans.

Mayor Stephen Mandel proclaimed the day to be Barbara Poole Day.

It was because they were passionate advocates for many causes and organizations that Barbara and her late husband John Poole were jointly named to the Alberta Order of Excellence.

The couple met on a ski trip to Banff in 1952 and were married that same year. John, an engineer, helped his father build Poole Construction, founded by his father in 1906, into an industry leader.

In 1948, John and his brother George bought the company from their dad and during the next 30 years, they created numerous landmark projects in Alberta, across Canada and in the US.

In 1977, the company was sold to employees, which Barbara said reflected the thoughtful and generous approach John always had to business and to life.

The Pooles were avid fans of the defunct Phoenix Theatre and when I met them socially at plays in the early '80s, I knew how active they were in the community. I didn't know then that Barbara swam a mile every day, was an expert skier and regularly led her husband and three children, Peter, Susan and Scott, down expert slopes.

Later, she showed just how intrepid she was by taking a Porsche club driving school course in Calgary. Members told me she was a skilful driver never afraid “to put the pedal to the metal.”

Barbara and John were also keen hikers and cyclists and enjoyed sailing at Pigeon Lake. Barbara often talks fondly of cycling through the vineyards of France.

In 1989, the couple decided to give even more back to the community and breathed new life into the Edmonton Community Foundation, which was inactive and without funds.

The Poole family, the late George Poole and Robert Stollery contributed to the project, which to date has allocated more than \$139 million to enhance and strengthen the community.

Edmonton businessman Richard Assaly, a Poole friend who met John in 1941 when John sold him a canoe, said the Pooles often helped people and community organizations anonymously. A complete list of those they helped would be hard to compile.

It is well documented the Pooles have supported the Edmonton Symphony; the Alberta Ballet; the Winspear Centre; the Citadel Theatre and the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta's Arts Award Foundation.

The Pooles have also helped many educational and environmental institutions, including the University of Alberta; MacEwan University; the Banff Centre and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The parrot has landedIt's personal invitations only Saturday when Earls Tin Palace on Jasper Avenue, which 30 years ago became the first Earls, opens again after a \$6-million revamp. The three-metre tall, 1.5-metre wide parrot which once colourfully graced the front of the restaurant will be auctioned by yours truly in support of Edmonton's Child Protection Centre. I have a bid of \$1,000. Do I hear \$1,500?